

The Board of Education

Town of Brooklyn
119 Gorman Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Mae Lyons, Board Chair
Justin Phaiah, Secretary
Ailla Wasstrom-Evans

Melissa Perkins-Banas, Vice-Chair
Kayla Burgess
Deb Metzger

Mission: The Brooklyn Schools will foster a drive for learning within each student to reach his/her greatest potential. To achieve this mission, the school will continually improve its educational programs and services to meet this community's expectations for a quality education for all.

The Brooklyn Board of Education held a special meeting in the Central Office Community Room and virtually on March 27, 2024 via Google Meet. In attendance were Mrs. Lyons, Dr. Perkins-Banas, Mr. Phaiah, Mrs. Burgess, Mrs. Wasstrom-Evans, and Mrs. Metzger. Mrs. Buell, Superintendent, and Mrs. Raynor were also present.

To support public participation the documents will be posted on the Town of Brooklyn Website as well as the Brooklyn Public Schools Website. You are encouraged to send questions or comments to buell@brooklynschools.org prior to the meeting.

1. Attendance, Establishment of a Quorum, Call to Order

Mrs. Lyons stated that a Quorum has been established. Board members that were present: Melissa Perkins-Banas, Justin Phaiah, Kayla Burgess, Ailla Wasstrom-Evans, Deb Metzger, and Mae Lyons.

Mrs. Lyons called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Minutes

a. February 28, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for February 28, 2024.
(Perkins-Banas/Burgess)
No Discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Mrs. Lyons stated that she would like to add an agenda item 5a. Introduction of the new Brooklyn Elementary School's Principal.

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion to add agenda item 5a. for the introduction of the new Brooklyn Elementary School's Principal.

(Perkins-Banas/Phaiah)

No Discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

5. Correspondence and Communication

a. Introduction of New Brooklyn Elementary School's Principal

Mrs. Buell introduced Mrs. Melissa Violette to the Board as the new Brooklyn Elementary School Principal starting July 1, 2024. Melissa was one of many strong applicants in the pool for the position of principal. She was unanimously selected by a committee of ten people as their top candidate. Mrs. Violette earned her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and Special Education from Southern Connecticut State University. She later earned a Master of Science in Reading, before earning her Sixth Year Diploma in the Administrator Preparation Program from the University of Connecticut.

Mrs. Violette has been a teacher since 2012 and worked at North Windham School as a kindergarten and first grade teacher. She then came to Brooklyn Public Schools in 2018 working as a kindergarten teacher and served as an Instructional Coach at Brooklyn Elementary School for the last three years. She is a highly regarded teacher, coach, and instructional leader and pleased to have her continue the great work of the school as the next Brooklyn Elementary School Principal.

Mrs. Buell and the Brooklyn Board of Education congratulated Melissa!

b. Thank you letter - Thomas Osborn

Mrs. Buell stated she sent a thank you letter to Thomas Osborn for his generous donation of a Yamaha P125 Piano with the stand, bench and the Galaxy Audio TX-8 speaker to the Brooklyn Elementary School Music Program.

c. Thank you letter - Beagary Charitable Trust

Mrs. Buell stated that she sent a letter to the Patricia Morgan, Beagary Charitable Trust, for their continued support of the Brooklyn Public Schools and for the

monetary donation in the amount of \$7,107.00. This donation will purchase and install a Kiln for the Brooklyn Middle School Art Department.

d. Letter from Artsonia 10K Club

Mrs. Buell stated she received a letter from Jim Meyers, CEO of Artsonia, commending the Brooklyn School's art program's commitment to art education and efforts to showcase student art. Mr Meyers congratulated Brooklyn School's art teachers and students, who have collectively contributed to an online gallery surpassing 10,000 works of art.

e. Woodstock Academy - Valedictorian Kayleigh Murray

Mrs. Buell stated she received a letter from Woodstock Academy's Head of School, Christopher Sandford, congratulating Kayleigh Murray for obtaining the honor of Valedictorian of The Woodstock Academy Class of 2024. Mrs. Buell and the Board congratulated Kayleigh.

Mrs. Buell stated that it is Board of Education appreciation month and she and Mrs. Raynor handed out gifts to the Brooklyn Board of Education that were made by students

6. Administrative Reports

a. FY23 Financial Reports

Mrs. DiBenedetto discussed the expenditure report. She stated that there are no changes from last month, expenditures are remaining on track and is watching the bottom line closely.

b. Enrollment Reports

Mrs. Buell discussed the enrollment report. The Brooklyn Elementary School increased by 1. The Brooklyn Middle School increased by 1 and high school students decreased by 2. Total student enrollment went from 1,251 and remains at 1,251.

c. Brooklyn's Best

Brooklyn Elementary School:

- Our pre-k students had a "Thankful Thursday " day on February 29th. On this day, students were taught manners, served each other food and dressed the part! Thank you to our pre-k staff for putting on such a wonderful day!
- Our third grade students did an amazing job working on their persuasive writing! They convinced Baker's Dozen to create 2 new donuts! Thank you to Baker's Dozen for partnering with us and creating a wonderful

opportunity for our children! This collaboration provides students with a real-world application for their writing skills, making learning more engaging and relevant.

- Our staff thoroughly enjoyed the Leap Day frog Frenzy activity that Mrs. Hardacker put together. This engaging event not only allowed the staff some fun but also helped support a positive climate within the school. Thank you for the fun!
- Our CareBears program is up and running. This is all due to the grant received to bring the Primary Project to BES. The Primary Project is an evidence-based, early intervention program designed to support the social and emotional development of young children.

Brooklyn Middle School:

- Good Cookie March 2024:
 - 5th - Elliana Faucher, Landon Scheck
 - 6th - Landon Bessette, Molly Gauthier
 - 7th - Mason Lee, Carrie Liu
 - 8th - Sam Cote, Ethan MacNeil
- We have an upcoming Internet Safety Presentation for Parents on March 28 at 5:15pm.
- We also have our Pasta Fundraiser supported by the Lions Club of Danielson on March 28th for our Community Fitness Course.
- Spring sports are off to a great start!
- We had an amazing turnout of families for our Related Arts Night. Thank you to the related arts team for planning such a great event!
- We appreciate all of the parent support through conversations at conferences.
- Thank you to the PTO for providing an amazing meal the night of conferences!
- Q3 after school activities were a huge success with over 70 sign ups.
- We look forward to the performance of Lion King, Jr on April 5 and 6.

7. Board of Education Committee Reports

None to Report

8. Board Representatives to Other Committees

None to Report

9. Old Business

- a. Discussion of FY25 Budget

Mrs. Buell asked the Brooklyn Board of Education if they would like to take action on the 2024-2025 school budget this evening as discussed in the Budget Workshop.

The Superintendent's Proposed Estimate of Expenditures for the 2024-2025 school year is \$22,656,771 or 4.72% increase over the 2023-2024 school year.

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion to pass the Superintendent's Proposed Estimate of Expenditures FY25 Budget.

(Perkins-Banas/Phaiah)

No Discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Mrs. Buell stated that the next step will be presenting to the Board of Finance in April.

b. Capital FY25 Budget

Mrs Buell asked the Brooklyn Board of Education if they would like to take action on the Capital Projects for the 2024-2025 school year as discussed during the Budget Workshop with the estimate of costs being \$209,741.00.

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion to pass the Capital FY25 Budget (as presented/as modified) during the Budget Workshop.

(Perkins-Banas/Burgess)

No Discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Mrs. Buell stated that the Capital Committee is meeting tomorrow night, Thursday, March 28, 2024, and these items will be presented to the committee.

10. New Business

a. Calendar Approvals

Mrs. Buell discussed the following calendar dates and would like the Board to approve these dates:

- Last Day of School - June 14, 2024
- 4th Grade Promotion - June 14, 2024
- 8th Grade Promotion - June 13, 2024

The Brooklyn Board of Education stated that there was no need for the Board to approve the above dates.

11. Public Comment

None

12. Adjournment

Dr. Perkins-Banas made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m.
(Phaiah/Perkins-Banas)

No Discussion

Vote Count: 6, 0

Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca S. DiBenedetto

Rebecca S. DiBenedetto

Justin Phaiah, Board of Education Secretary

Date